

DO NOT ENTER

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified nucleic acid construct comprising:  
a gene cassette encoding at least one modified protein selected from the group consisting of: a modified LuxA comprising an amino acid sequence in its carboxy terminus that specifically binds to a tail-specific protease, and  
a modified LuxB comprising an amino acid sequence in its carboxy terminus that specifically binds to a protein associated with a ubiquitin-proteasome pathway, said modified protein comprising at least one modification in its amino acid sequence relative to the sequence of a wild-type form of said protein, wherein said modification comprises the addition of a peptide sequence to the protein, and  
wherein the half-life of the modified LuxA protein when expressed in a bacterial cell is shorter than the half-life of the wild-type form of the LuxA protein when expressed in the bacterial cell, and  
wherein the half-life of the modified LuxB protein when expressed in a yeast cell is shorter than the half-life of the wild-type form of the LuxB protein when expressed in the yeast cell.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The purified nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein said gene cassette encodes both the modified LuxA and the modified LuxB,

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